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EXAMINER	
PINHEIRO, JASON PAUL	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3714	

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	03/07/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

ED

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/777,011	SINGER ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jason Pinheiro	3714	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-36* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-36* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *10 February 2004* is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☒ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *07/20/2004, 02/22/2005*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: "input devices 30" in Figs. 1A, and 1B. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

2. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference character(s) not mentioned in the description: "208a", "208b", "208c", "208d", and "208e" in Figs. 5A, 5B, and 7, and "302" in Figs. 6B, and 8B. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d), or amendment to the specification to add the reference character(s) in the description in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(b) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of

an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

3. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

Page 18, Line 26: "symbols 102" should be changed to --symbols 204-- as shown in figure 5A;

Page 23, Line 30: "paid display 110 indicates a zero" should be changed to --paid display 216 indicates eighty-- as shown in figure 5B;

Page 27, Line 27: "paid display 316" should be changed to --paid display 314-- as shown in figure 6B.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

4. Applicant is advised that should claim 14 be found allowable, claim 15 will be objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate thereof. When two claims in an application are duplicates or else are so close in content that they both cover the same thing, despite a slight difference in wording, it is proper after allowing one claim to object to the other as being a substantial duplicate of the allowed claim. See MPEP § 706.03(k).

5. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities:

Line 17: "a plurality of symbols" should be changed to --the plurality of symbols--.

. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

6. Claim 1 recites the limitations "the reel displays" in line 19, and "the combination of symbols" in line 20. There are insufficient antecedent bases for these limitations in the claim.

7. Claims 3 and 4 recite the limitation "said other said reel displays" in line 3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claims.

8. Claim 17 recites the limitation "the respective paylines" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claims.

9. Claim 18 recites the limitations "the plurality of same symbols" in line 10, "the combination of symbols" in line 12 and "each combination of symbols" in Lines 14-15. There are insufficient antecedent bases for these limitations in the claim.

10. Claim 19 recites the limitation "any winning combination of symbols" in Lines 2-3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claims.

11. Claim 22 recites the limitation "winning combinations of the symbols" in Lines 2-3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claims.

12. Claims 23 and 24 recite the limitation " winning combinations " in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claims.

13. Claims 29, 30, 31, and 32 recite the limitation "winning combinations of the symbols" in Lines 2-3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claims.

14. Claim 36 recites the limitation "the separate displays" in line 18. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

15. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

16. Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 28, 29, 30, 33, 34, 35, and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Falconer (US 6832957)

The applied reference has a common assignee with the instant application. Based upon the earlier effective U.S. filing date of the reference, it constitutes prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). This rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) might be overcome either by a showing under 37 CFR 1.132 that any invention disclosed but not claimed in

the reference was derived from the inventor of this application and is thus not the invention "by another," or by an appropriate showing under 37 CFR 1.131.

Regarding claim 1: Falconer discloses a gaming device comprising: a cabinet (Col. 4, Lines 36-40) (figures 1A and 1B); at least one display device mounted to the cabinet (Col. 5, Lines 15-20) (figures 1A and 1B); a plurality of reels forming a set of reels, said set of reels displayed by the display device (Col. 5, Lines 28-32); a plurality of symbols on said reels (Col. 5, Lines 32-36); a plurality of different winning combinations of the symbols (Col. 6, Lines 61-65); a plurality of different paylines associated with the reels (Col. 6, Lines 49-53); and a processor operable with the display device (Col. 5, Lines 45-48) to: (a) separately and simultaneously display a plurality of reel displays of the set of reels (Col. 8, Lines 32-35) , wherein each of said reel displays includes a different one of said paylines; (b) activate the reels to generate a plurality of symbols, and after the reels are activated, display the same plurality of said symbols generated on the set of reels on each of the reel displays, (c) display the combination of symbols occurring on each of the paylines on the reel displays, and (d) provide an award to a player based on each winning combination of symbols occurring on said paylines (Col. 7; Lines 18-39);

Regarding claim 2: Falconer discloses that the award includes the sum of all of the awards associated with the winning combination of symbols occurring on the paylines (Col. 3, Lines 54-59);

Regarding claim 5: Falconer discloses that the paylines include at least one of: a horizontally extending payline, a vertically extending payline, a diagonally extending payline and any combination of these paylines (Col. 6, Lines 61-65);

Regarding claim 6: Falconer discloses that a bonus award provided to the player when a designated number of winning combinations of the symbols occur on the paylines (Col. 8, Lines 4-6);

Regarding claim 12: Falconer discloses that a selector controlled by the processor, said selector adapted to enable the player to select at least one of the reel displays (Col. 7, Lines 9-21);

Regarding claim 13: Falconer discloses that a bonus award provided to the player when at least one winning combination of the symbols occurs on the paylines of at least one of said reel displays selected by the player (Col. 8, Lines 4-6);

Regarding claim 14, and 15: Falconer discloses that a bonus award provided to the player when at least one winning combination of the symbols occurs on the paylines of all of said reel displays selected by the player (Col. 7, Lines 55-60);

Regarding claim 18: Falconer discloses a method of operating a gaming device, said method comprising: (a) separately and simultaneously displaying a plurality of reel displays of a same set of reels (Col. 8, Lines 32-35), said reels including a plurality of symbols (Col. 5, Lines 32-36) and a plurality of different

paylines associated with said reels, said reel displays each displaying a different one of said paylines associated with the set of reels (Col. 6, Lines 49-53); (b) activating the set of reels to generate a plurality of symbols (Col. 7, Lines 22-33); (c) displaying the plurality of same symbols generated by the set of reels on each of the reel displays (Col. 7, Lines 28-33), (d) displaying the combination of symbols occurring on the payline on each of the reel displays(Col. 7, Lines 28-33); and (e) providing an award to a player based on each winning combination of symbols occurring on said paylines (Col. 7, Lines 34-39);

Regarding claim 19: Falconer discloses that the award including providing the sum of all of the awards associated with any winning combination of symbols occurring on the paylines (Col. 3, Lines 54-59);

Regarding claim 20: Falconer discloses displaying the reel displays on more than one display devices (Col. 5, Lines 15-23);

Regarding claim 21: Falconer discloses that the paylines include at least one of: a horizontally extending payline, a vertically extending payline, a diagonally extending payline and any combination of these paylines (Col. 6, Lines 61-65);

Regarding claim 22: Falconer discloses providing a bonus award to the player when a designated number of winning combinations of the symbols occur on the paylines (Col. 8, Lines 4-6);

Regarding claim 23: Falconer discloses pre-determining the designated number of winning combinations (Col. 7, Lines 45-47);

Regarding claim 28: Falconer discloses providing a selector controlled by a processor, wherein said selector enables the player to select at least one of the reel displays (Col. 7, Lines 9-21);

Regarding claim 29: Falconer discloses providing a bonus award to the player when at least one winning combination of the symbols occurs on the paylines of at least one of said reel displays selected by the player (Col. 7, Lines 45-47);

Regarding claim 30: Falconer discloses providing a bonus award to the player when at least one winning combination of the symbols occurs on the paylines of all of said reel displays selected by the player (Col. 7, Lines 55-60);

Regarding claim 33: Falconer discloses operating the gaming device through a data network (Col. 6, Lines 8-20);

Regarding claim 34: Falconer discloses that the data network is an internet (Col. 6, Lines 8-20);

Regarding claim 35: Falconer discloses that computer instructions for implementing steps (a) to (e) are stored in a memory device (Col. 5, Lines 51-55);

Regarding claim 36: Falconer discloses a gaming device comprising: a cabinet (Col. 4, Lines 36-40) (figures 1A and 1B); at least one display device mounted to the cabinet (Col. 5, Lines 15-20) (figures 1A and 1B); a plurality of reels forming a set of reels (Col. 5, Lines 28-32); a plurality of symbols on said reels (Col. 5, Lines 32-36); a plurality of different winning combinations of the

symbols (Col. 6, Lines 61-65); a plurality of different paylines associated with the reels (Col. 6, Lines 49-53); and a processor operable with the display device (Col. 5, Lines 45-48) to display the set of reels separately and simultaneously a plurality of times (Col. 8, Lines 32-35), and display each different payline in association with one of the separate displays of the set of reels to enable a player to view and easily determine each of the winning symbol combinations that occur on the paylines wagered upon by the player (Col. 7, Lines 18-21).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

17. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

18. Claim 1, 2, 5, 12, 17, 18, 19, 21, 28, 32, and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Crawford et al (US 6270412).

Regarding claim 1, 18, and 36: Crawford '412 discloses a cabinet (Fig. 6); at least one display device mounted to the cabinet (Col 4, Lines 55-57); a plurality of reels forming a set of reels, said set of reels displayed by the display device (Col. 5, Lines 10-16); a plurality of symbols on said reels (Fig. 7); a plurality of different winning combinations of the symbols (Col. 4, Lines 26-45); a plurality of different paylines associated with the reels (Col. 5, Lines 17-19); and

a processor operable with the display device (Col. 4, Lines 57-58); activating the reels to generate a plurality of symbols (Col. 3, Lines 7-26); separately and simultaneously displaying a plurality of reel displays of the set of reels, wherein each of said reel displays includes a different one of said paylines (Col. 5, Lines 9-19) (Fig. 6); displaying the combination of symbols occurring on each of the paylines on the reel displays (Col. 3, Lines 22-25); and providing an award to a player (Col. 4, Lines 26-36) based on each winning combination of symbols occurring on said paylines (Col. 3, Lines 31-33). Crawford does not specifically disclose after the reels are activated, displaying the same plurality of said symbols generated on the set of reels on each of the reel displays. Crawford does disclose displaying the plurality of symbols generated on the reels on each of the reel displays (Col. 3, Lines 22-25) and it would have been an obvious modification at the time the invention was made to configure the reels to display the same plurality of symbols on each of the displays in order to create a more stimulating game for the player to play.

Regarding claims 2, and 19: Crawford discloses that the award includes the sum of all of the awards associated with the winning combination of symbols occurring on the paylines (Col. 7, Lines 54-56).

Regarding claims 5, and 21: Crawford discloses the paylines include a horizontally extending payline (Col. 3, Lines 26-29) (Fig. 3).

Regarding claim 12, and 28: Crawford discloses a selector adapted to enable the player to select at least one of the reel displays (Col. 5, Lines 44-47).

19. Claim 3, 4, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Crawford et al (US 6270412) in view of Cole et al (US 2004/0137978).

Crawford '412 discloses that which is discussed above. However Crawford does not disclose a second display device mounted to the cabinet, wherein one of the reel displays is displayed by said display device and said other said reel displays are displayed by said second display device; or a second display device mounted to the cabinet, wherein a plurality of the reel displays are displayed by said display device and said other said reel displays are displayed by said second display device; or displaying the reel displays on more than one display devices.

Cole '978 does disclose a second display device mounted to the cabinet (Pg. 4, Para. [0048], Lines 5-6), and that each display is operable to display independently different game information relating to the gaming device (Pg. 6, Para. [0082], Lines 11-19).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to integrate the teaching of Cole into the teaching of Crawford in order to create a gaming device which displays any number of reel display on one display and the other reel displays on a second display in order to create a more stimulating game for the player to play.

20. Claims 6-11, and 22-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Crawford et al (US 6270412) in view of Baerlocher et al (US 6336863).

Regarding claim 6, and 9, 22, and 25: Crawford '412 discloses that which is discussed above. However Crawford does not disclose a bonus award provided to the player when a designated number of winning combinations of the symbols occur on the paylines; or that a bonus award provided to the player when winning combinations of the symbols occur on a designated percentage of the paylines.

Baerlocher '863 does disclose a bonus award provided to the player when a designated number of winning combinations of the symbols occur on the paylines (Col. 3, Lines 63-67). Although Baerlocher does not specifically disclose the bonus being awarded when a percentage of the paylines contain winning combinations, this would have been an obvious modification to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made in order to create a more stimulating game.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to integrate the teaching of Baerlocher into the teaching of Crawford in order to create a more exciting gaming device for players to play.

Regarding claim 7-8, 10-11, 23-24, and 26-27: Crawford '412 discloses that which is discussed above. However Crawford does not disclose that the designated number of winning combinations is pre-determined by the processor; that the designated number of winning combinations is randomly determined by the processor; that the designated percentage is pre-determined by the

processor; or that the designated percentage is randomly determined by the processor.

Baerlocher '863 does disclose that the designated number of winning combinations is pre-determined (Col. 3, Lines 15-21). Although Baerlocher does not specifically disclose that the designated number of winning combinations is randomly determined or that the designated percentage is randomly or pre-determined these would have been obvious modifications to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made in order to create a more stimulating game.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to integrate the teaching of Baerlocher into the teaching of Crawford in order to create a more enjoyable game for players to play.

21. Claims 13-15, 29-30, and 33-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Crawford et al (US 6270412) in view of Asdale (US 2004/0038724).

Regarding claims 13-15, and 29-30: Crawford '412 discloses that which is discussed above. However Crawford does not disclose a bonus award provided to the player when at least one winning combination of the symbols occurs on the paylines of at least one of said reel displays selected by the player.

Asdale '724 does disclose a bonus provided to the player when at least one winning combination of the symbols occurs on the paylines of at least one of the selected reel displays (Pg. 5, Para. [0052-0053], Lines 1-21). Although Asdale does not specifically disclose that the symbol combination be on all of the selected reel displays, it would have been and obvious an obvious modification at

the time the invention was made in order to create a more challenging game to play, which will make a more interesting and profitable game as well.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to integrate the teachings of Asdale into the teachings of Crawford in order to create a more exciting game for the player.

Regarding claims 33-34: Crawford '412 discloses that which is discussed above. However Crawford does not disclose operating the gaming device through a data network; and that the data network is an internet.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to integrate the teachings of Asdale into the teachings of Crawford in order to create a more stimulating game for the player.

Asdale '724 does disclose operating the gaming device through a data network, that data network being an internet (Pg. 3, Para. [0033], Lines 1-13).

Regarding claim 35: Crawford '412 discloses that which is discussed above. However Crawford does not disclose that computer instructions for implementing steps (a) to (e) are stored in a memory device.

Asdale '724 does disclose that computer instructions for implementing steps (a) to (e) are stored in a memory device (Pg. 1, Para. [0008], Lines 1-6).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to integrate the teachings of Asdale into the teachings of Crawford in order to further create a stimulating game device.

22. Claims 16, and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Crawford et al (US 6270412) in view of Meyer (US 20020082075).

Crawford '412 discloses that which is discussed above. However Crawford does not disclose that the display device is operable to individually display the award associated with each of the winning combination of symbols which occur on the paylines; and individually displaying the award associated with each of the winning combination of symbols which occur on the paylines.

Meyer '075 does disclose that the display device is operable to individually display the award associated with each of the winning combination of symbols which occur on the paylines (Pg. 2, Para. 33, Lines 1-4); and individually displaying the award associated with each of the winning combination of symbols which occur on the paylines (Pg. 2, Para. 33, Lines 1-4).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to integrate Meyer's method of displaying the awards into Crawford's gaming machine in order to create a less confusing game machine for a player and therefore creating a more enjoyable game to play.

23. Claims 17, and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Crawford et al (US 6270412) in view of Crawford (US 2003/0017868).

Regarding claim 17: Crawford '412 discloses that which is discussed above. However Crawford '412 does not disclose that the display device displays said awards in association with the respective paylines on which said winning combination of the symbols occur.

Crawford '868 does disclose that the display device displays said awards in association with the respective paylines on which said winning combination of the symbols occur (Pg. 6, Claim 24, Lines 10-11).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to integrate Crawford '868's method of displaying the awards into Crawford '412's gaming machine in order to create a less confusing game machine for a player and therefore creating a more enjoyable game to play.

Regarding claim 32: Crawford '412 discloses that which is discussed above. However Crawford '412 does not disclose displaying said awards in association with the respective paylines on which said winning combination of the symbols occur.

Crawford '868 discloses displaying said awards in association with the respective paylines on which said winning combination of the symbols occur (Pg. 6, Claim 24, Lines 10-11).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to integrate Crawford's method of displaying the awards into Falconer's gaming machine in order to create a less confusing game machine for a player and therefore creating a more enjoyable game to play.

24. Claims 3, and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Falconer (US 6832957) in view of Kaminkow (US 20040043815).

The applied reference has a common assignee with the instant application. Based upon the earlier effective U.S. filing date of the reference, it constitutes prior art only under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). This rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) might be overcome by: (1) a showing under 37 CFR 1.132 that any invention disclosed but not claimed in the reference was derived from the inventor of this application and is thus not an invention "by another"; (2) a showing of a date of invention for the claimed subject matter of the application which corresponds to subject matter disclosed but not claimed in the reference, prior to the effective U.S. filing date of the reference under 37 CFR 1.131; or (3) an oath or declaration under 37 CFR 1.130 stating that the application and reference are currently owned by the same party and that the inventor named in the application is the prior inventor under 35 U.S.C. 104, together with a terminal disclaimer in accordance with 37 CFR 1.321(c). This rejection might also be overcome by showing that the reference is disqualified under 35 U.S.C. 103(c) as prior art in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). See MPEP § 706.02(l)(1) and § 706.02(l)(2).

Falconer '957 discloses that which is discussed above. Falconer also discloses a second display device mounted to the cabinet (Col. 5, Lines 43-44). However Falconer does not disclose that one of the reel displays is displayed by said display device and said other said reel displays are displayed by said second display device.

Kaminkow '815 does disclose that one of the reel displays is displayed by said display device and said other said reel displays are displayed by said second display device (Pg. 4, Para. 37, Lines 1-7); and a plurality of the reel displays are displayed by said display device and said other said reel displays are displayed by said second display device (Pg. 4, Para. 37, Lines 1-7).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to display the different reels separately as disclosed in Kaminkow on the two displays of Falconer in order to create an easier to follow and also a more interesting game.

25. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Falconer (US 6832957) in view of Mierau et al (US 20050130733).

The applied reference has a common assignee with the instant application. Based upon the earlier effective U.S. filing date of the reference, it constitutes prior art only under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). This rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) might be overcome by: (1) a showing under 37 CFR 1.132 that any invention disclosed but not claimed in the reference was derived from the inventor of this application and is thus not an invention "by another"; (2) a showing of a date of invention for the claimed subject matter of the application which corresponds to subject matter disclosed but not claimed in the reference, prior to the effective U.S. filing date of the reference under 37 CFR 1.131; or (3) an oath or declaration under 37 CFR 1.130 stating that the application and reference are currently owned by the same party and that the inventor named in

the application is the prior inventor under 35 U.S.C. 104, together with a terminal disclaimer in accordance with 37 CFR 1.321(c). This rejection might also be overcome by showing that the reference is disqualified under 35 U.S.C. 103(c) as prior art in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). See MPEP § 706.02(l)(1) and § 706.02(l)(2).

Falconer '957 discloses that which is discussed above. However Falconer does not disclose that the designated number of winning combinations is pre-determined by the processor.

Mierau '733 does disclose that the designated number of winning combinations is pre-determined by the processor (Pg. 3, Para. 41, Lines 9-11).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to integrate Mierau's number of winning combination determination system into Falconer's game system to create a more exciting and enjoyable game..

26. Claims 8, 9, 11, 24, 25, and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Falconer (US 6832957) in view of Baelocher (US 20040116173).

The applied reference has a common assignee with the instant application. Based upon the earlier effective U.S. filing date of the reference, it constitutes prior art only under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). This rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) might be overcome by: (1) a showing under 37 CFR 1.132 that any invention disclosed but not claimed in the reference was derived from the inventor of this application and is thus not an invention "by another"; (2) a

showing of a date of invention for the claimed subject matter of the application which corresponds to subject matter disclosed but not claimed in the reference, prior to the effective U.S. filing date of the reference under 37 CFR 1.131; or (3) an oath or declaration under 37 CFR 1.130 stating that the application and reference are currently owned by the same party and that the inventor named in the application is the prior inventor under 35 U.S.C. 104, together with a terminal disclaimer in accordance with 37 CFR 1.321(c). This rejection might also be overcome by showing that the reference is disqualified under 35 U.S.C. 103(c) as prior art in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). See MPEP § 706.02(l)(1) and § 706.02(l)(2).

Falconer '957 discloses that which is discussed above. However Falconer does not disclose that the designated number of winning combinations is randomly determined by the processor; a bonus award provided to the player when winning combinations of the symbols occur on a designated percentage of the paylines; the designated percentage is randomly determined by the processor; randomly determining the designated number of winning combinations; providing a bonus award to the player when a designated percentage of the paylines indicate winning combinations of the symbols; and randomly determining the designated percentage.

Baelocher '173 does disclose that the designated number of winning combinations is randomly determined by the processor (Pg. 4, Para. 40, Lines 20-22); a bonus award provided to the player when winning combinations of the

symbols occur on a designated percentage of the paylines (Pg. 5, Para. 56, Lines 12-15); the designated percentage is randomly determined by the processor (Pg. 4, Para. 40, Lines 20-22); randomly determining the designated number of winning combinations (Pg. 4, Para. 40, Lines 20-22); providing a bonus award to the player when a designated percentage of the paylines indicate winning combinations of the symbols (Pg. 5, Para. 56, Lines 12-15); and randomly determining the designated percentage (Pg. 5, Para. 56, Lines 12-15).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to integrate the teachings of Baelocher into the gaming device of Falconer in order to create a more exciting and enjoyable game for a player to play.

27. Claims 10, and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Falconer (US 6832957) in view of Baelocher (US 20040116173), as applied to claim 25 above, and further in view of Mierau et al (US 20050130733).

Falconer '957 and Baelocher '173 do not disclose that the designated percentage is pre-determined by the processor; and pre-determining the designated percentage.

Mierau '733 does disclose that the designated condition is pre-determined by the processor (Pg. 3, Para. 41, Lines 9-11); and pre-determining the designated condition (Pg. 3, Para. 41, Lines 9-11).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to integrate Mierau's pre-determination of Baelocher's

percentages into Falconer's gaming system to create a more exciting and enjoyable game for the player to play.

28. Claims 16, and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Falconer (US 6832957) in view of Meyer (US 20020082075).

Falconer '957 discloses that which is discussed above. However Falconer does not disclose that the display device is operable to individually display the award associated with each of the winning combination of symbols which occur on the paylines; and individually displaying the award associated with each of the winning combination of symbols which occur on the paylines.

Meyer '075 does disclose that the display device is operable to individually display the award associated with each of the winning combination of symbols which occur on the paylines (Pg. 2, Para. 33, Lines 1-4); and individually displaying the award associated with each of the winning combination of symbols which occur on the paylines (Pg. 2, Para. 33, Lines 1-4).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to integrate Meyer's method of displaying the awards into Falconer's gaming machine in order to create a less confusing game machine for a player and therefore creating a more enjoyable game to play.

29. Claims 17, and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Falconer (US 6832957) in view of Crawford (US 20030017868).

Falconer '957 discloses that which is discussed above. However Falconer does not disclose that the display device displays said awards in association with the respective paylines on which said winning combination of the symbols occur; and displaying said awards in association with the respective paylines on which said winning combination of the symbols occur.

Crawford '868 does disclose that the display device displays said awards in association with the respective paylines on which said winning combination of the symbols occur (Pg. 6, Claim 24, Lines 10-11); and displaying said awards in association with the respective paylines on which said winning combination of the symbols occur (Pg. 6, Claim 24, Lines 10-11).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to integrate Crawford's method of displaying the awards into Falconer's gaming machine in order to create a less confusing game machine for a player and therefore creating a more enjoyable game to play.

Conclusion

30. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Cannon discloses a gaming machine with simultaneous play of multiple games, Hedrick et al discloses a gaming machine with multiple displays, Inoue discloses a gaming machine with two distinct and separate sets of reels, Mayeroff discloses a bonus for a gaming machine, and Baerlocher also discloses a gaming machine with a bonus feature.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jason Pinheiro whose telephone number is 571-270-1350. The examiner can normally be reached on M - F 8:00 AM - 4 PM;.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Pezzuto can be reached on (571) 272-6996. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JP
02/26/2007

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PRIMARY EXAMINER